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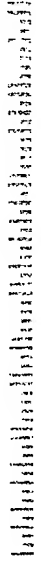
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JUN 12 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,075,689 :
Issue Date: June 13, 2000 :
Application No. 09/138,253 :
Filed: August 21, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No. 19570.44353 :

ON PETITION

This is a decision in response to a petition filed April 19, 2012, under 37 CFR 1.378(c), to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) must be filed within twenty-four months after the six month grace period specified in 35 USC 41(b). The patent issued on June 13, 2000. The six month grace period for the 7 ½ year maintenance fee expired at midnight on June 13, 2008. Accordingly, an unintentional petition to reinstate the instant patent must have been submitted no later than June 13, 2010. Since the original petition was filed on April 19, 2012, it was not timely filed and the instant patent will not be reinstated under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Patentee may wish to pursue reinstatement of the patent under the unavoidable provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(b). A petition to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee under 35 USC 41(c) and 37 CFR 1.378(b) must be accompanied by (1) an adequate, verified showing that the delay was unavoidable, since reasonable care was taken to insure that the maintenance fee would be paid timely and that the petition was filed promptly after the patentee was notified of, or otherwise became aware of, the expiration of the patent, (2) payment of the appropriate maintenance fee, unless previously submitted, and (3) payment of the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1).

Since the patent will not be reinstated at this time, petitioner may request a refund of the \$1,425.00 maintenance fee and \$1,640 surcharge submitted with the petition. The request should be made in writing and addressed to: Mail Stop 16, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be delivered through one of the following mediums:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
 Commissioner for Patents
 Post Office Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: Customer Service Window
 Mail Stop Petitions
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax: (571) 273-8300
 ATTN: Office of Petitions

By internet: EFS-Web
 www.uspto.gov/ebs/efs_help.html
 (for help using EFS-Web call the
 Patent Electronic Business Center
 at (866) 217-9197)

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

/KOC/
Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Cc:

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